

Brenham City Council Minutes

A Regular Meeting of the Brenham City Council was held on Thursday, December 18, 2025 beginning at 1:00 PM in the Brenham City Hall, City Council Chambers, at 200 W. Vulcan Street, Brenham, Texas.

Members Present:

Mayor Atwood Kenjura
Mayor Pro Tem Clint Kolby
Councilmember Leah Cook
Councilmember Paul LaRoche
Councilmember Adonna Saunders
Councilmember Albert Wright

Members Absent:

Councilmember Steve Soman

City of Brenham Staff Present:

City Manager Carolyn Miller, City Attorney Cary Bovey, Assistant City Manager Megan Mainer, City Secretary/Director of Administrative Services Jeana Bellinger, General Manager of Public Utilities William Bissette, Director of Gas and Utilities Shawn Bolenbarr, Director of Finance Stacy Hardy, Director of Public Works Dane Rau, Chief Financial Officer Julie Flagg, Director of HR and Risk Management Susan Nienstedt, Fire Chief Mark Donovan, Police Chief Gary Boshears, Development Services Director Stephanie Doland, Director of Engineering Richard O'Malley, Kyle Branham, David Cella, Gabriela Trejo, Lt. Kelvin Raven, Stephen Draehn, Leigh Linden, Casey Redman, and Kevin Schimdt

Citizens/Others Present:

Michael Wortley

Media Present:

Jason May, Brenham Banner Press, and Josh Blaschke, KWHI

- 1. Call Meeting to Order**
- 2. Invocation and Pledges to the US and Texas Flags - Pro Tem Clint Kolby**
- 3. Special Introduction — Brenham Police Department Officer Rosa Salinas**

4. Citizen Comments

No citizen comments were heard.

CONSENT AGENDA

5. Statutory Consent Agenda

- 5.a. Approve the Ratification of a Grant Payment to BK Stringer, Ltd. in the Amount of \$281,285.30 as Outlined in the Chapter 380 Economic Development Agreement Between the City of Brenham and BK Stringer, Ltd. and Authorize the Mayor to Execute Any Necessary Documentation**

A motion was made by Councilmember Wright and seconded by Councilmember Saunders to approve Consent Agenda Item 5.a.

Mayor Kenjura called for a vote. The motion passed with Council voting as follows:

Yes: Mayor Kenjura, Mayor Pro Tem Kolby, Councilmember Cook, Councilmember LaRoche, Councilmember Saunders, Councilmember Wright

No: None

Absent: Councilmember Soman

PUBLIC HEARING AND ASSOCIATED ACTION ITEM

- 6. Public Hearing, Discussion and Possible Action on an Ordinance on Its First Reading for the Creation of Reinvestment Zone Number 54 Requested by Brenham Main Street Holdings, LLC for Commercial Tax Phase-In Incentive on Property Generally Located at 207/209 Main Street, Brenham, Texas, Being More Fully Described in Exhibit "A" of the Ordinance Creating Reinvestment Zone Number 54, and Designating This Property as Qualifying for Tax Phase-In**

Julie Flagg, Chief Financial Officer, presented this item. Flagg explained that Brenham Main Street Holdings, LLC, is planning to completely refurbish the second floor of 207/209 Main Street with the goal of moving the Moorman/Tate Law firm from the first floor. The owner has hired an architectural firm and will be modernizing the space with updated electrical systems, HVAC improvements, energy-efficient lighting and more, while maintaining the building's historic character. The total capital investment is estimated at \$2,000,000.00

A motion was made by Councilmember Cook and seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Kolby to approve an Ordinance on its first reading for the creation of Reinvestment Zone No. 54 requested by Brenham Main Street Holdings, LLC for Commercial Tax Phase-In Incentive on that certain property located at 207/209 Main Street, Brenham, Texas, being more fully described in Exhibit "A" of the Ordinance creating Reinvestment Zone No. 54, and designating this property as qualifying for Tax Phase-In.

Mayor Kenjura called for a vote. The motion passed with Council voting as follows:

Yes: Mayor Kenjura, Mayor Pro Tem Kolby, Councilmember Cook, Councilmember LaRoche, Councilmember Saunders, Councilmember Wright

No: None

Absent: Councilmember Soman

REGULAR SESSION

7. Discuss and Possibly Act Upon Resolution No. R-25-038 Adopting the Downtown Life Safety Grant Program

Stephanie Doland, Director of Development Services, presented this item. Doland stated that on November 13, 2025, the City Council held a work session to discuss the proposed Downtown Life Safety Grant Program ("Grant"). The Grant was drafted following the adoption of the 2019 Comprehensive Plan and the creation of the Tax Increment Reinvestment Zone, which encouraged public investment in Health and Life Safety Improvements to Downtown Buildings. The goal of the Grant is to encourage investment in Downtown buildings which will result in currently vacant or underutilized second and third floors becoming occupied.

Doland explained that the proposed Grant will allow for properties located in the Downtown Historical Business District to be eligible for matching grant funds to be awarded for projects required by the International Fire Code and Texas Accessibility Standards (ADA). Successful applicants will be awarded Grant funds by City Council following the review and recommendation of a staff review panel. Grant funds will be reimbursed following the completion of the improvements and will be awarded dollar for dollar up to \$60,000. The current FY25-26 budget allocated \$120,000 for the Grant program. Applications for the initial Grant year are due on January 30, 2026.

Doland stated that the City Attorney prepared a sample 380 Agreement that would be also included in the grant application so that applicants could see the types of things that would be required of them should they be awarded the grant.

A motion was made by Councilmember Saunders and seconded by Councilmember Wright to approve Resolution No. R-25-038 adopting the Downtown Life Safety Grant Program with the inclusion of the 380 Agreement as presented.

Mayor Kenjura called for a vote. The motion passed with Council voting as follows:

Yes: Mayor Kenjura, Mayor Pro Tem Kolby, Councilmember Cook, Councilmember LaRoche, Councilmember Saunders, Councilmember Wright

No: None

Absent: Councilmember Soman

8. Discuss and Possibly Act Upon Change Order No. 1 and Change Order No. 2 to the 2021 Professional Services Agreement Between the City of Brenham and Quiddity Engineering LLC Related to the Brenham Family Park and Authorize the Mayor to Execute any Necessary Documentation

Dane Rau, Director of Public Works, presented this item. Rau explained that in 2021, the City hired Jones-Carter, now Quiddity, to perform professional services including but not limited to master planning, environmental services, design, civil services, landscape planning, electrical design, permitting, construction services, field project management, along with contract administration services. Since 2021, staff has had to maneuver through many obstacles concerning environmental concerns, stream classifications, modifying design and hold numerous meetings to discuss funding limitations. Due to these issues, Quiddity expressed the need to cover additional costs that have now exceeded the contract amount or have been added to the scope of work. Rau explained that both change orders have been reviewed in depth and staff agrees with Quiddity's assessment of the additional costs and request that Council approve both Change Orders in the amount of \$42,067.13. Rau stated that these additional costs will be funded by BCDC.

A motion was made by Councilmember Saunders and seconded by Councilmember Cook to approve Change Order No. 1 and Change Order No. 2 to the 2021 Professional Services Agreement Between the City of Brenham and Quiddity Engineering LLC related to the Brenham Family Park, in the amount of \$42,067.13, and authorize the Mayor to execute any necessary documentation.

Mayor Kenjura called for a vote. The motion passed with Council voting as follows:

Yes: Mayor Kenjura, Mayor Pro Tem Kolby, Councilmember Cook,

Councilmember LaRoche, Councilmember Saunders, Councilmember Wright

No: None

Absent: Councilmember Soman

9. Discuss and Possibly Act Upon the Purchase of Station Alerting Software and Equipment for Brenham Fire Station No. 1, Brenham Fire Station No. 2, and the Washington County 9-1-1 Communications Center Through Houston-Galveston Area Council (H-GAC) Cooperative Purchasing Program Contract No. EC07-23 and Authorize the Mayor to Execute Any Necessary Documentation

Mark Donovan, Fire Chief, and Stephen Draehn, Maintenance Supervisor, presented this item. Draehn explained that staff is seeking approval to purchase Station Alerting software and equipment for Brenham Fire Station No. 1, Brenham Fire Station No. 2 and the 9-1-1 Communications Center from US Digital Designs on HGAC contract #EC07-23. Draehn stated that during the design phase of Brenham Fire Station 2, several different station alerting types were researched and after visiting other fire stations, staff determined that the US Digital system was the most practical and cost-effective solution.

Donovan explained that the US Digital station alerting system accomplishes the desired goal of bringing both fire stations online with up-to-date alerting while interfacing with the 911 Communications Center. Donovan stated that with Phoenix G2 from US Digital, alerts are delivered to one or more stations simultaneously in under a second and dispatcher on hold time is reduced, and response times can be cut by seconds or even minutes. The G2 system is reliable and redundant so it can be run during communication failures. G2 also offers Voice Alert, an alternative to a human speaking dispatch which delivers clear and consistent text-to-speech, helping to improve efficiency and response times.

Donovan stated that the quote was provided in three parts to reflect the needs of the different facilities: (1) Fire Station No. 1 in the amount of \$61,031.67; (2) Fire Station No. 2 in the amount of \$76,958.05; and (3) Washington County 9-1-1 Communications Center in the amount of \$55,366.27.

A motion was made by Councilmember Saunders and seconded by Councilmember Wright to approve the Purchase of Station Alerting Software and Equipment for Brenham Fire Station No. 1, Brenham Fire Station No. 2, and Washington County 9-1-1 Communications Center through Houston-Galveston Area Council (H-GAC) Cooperative Purchasing Program Contract No. EC07-23, in the amount of \$193,355.99 and authorize the Mayor to execute any necessary documentation.

Mayor Kenjura called for a vote. The motion passed with Council voting as follows:

Yes: Mayor Kenjura, Mayor Pro Tem Kolby, Councilmember Cook, Councilmember LaRoche, Councilmember Saunders, Councilmember Wright

No: None

Absent: Councilmember Soman

10. Administrative/Elected Officials Report

City Manager Carolyn Miller reported on the following:

- City offices will be closed on Decdember 24 and 25 for the Christmas holidays and on January 1 for New Years
- The next City Council meeting will be on January 8, 2026

City Council adjourned into Executive Session at 1:31 p.m.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

11. Section 551.071, Texas Government Code - Consultation with Attorney - Consultation with City Attorney Concerning the Brenham Municipal Airport, Its Operations and Services, and Associated Matters

Executive Session adjourned at 2:25 p.m.

ADJOURN

Atwood C. Kenjura
Atwood C. Kenjura
Mayor

Jeana Bellinger, TRMC, CMC
Jeana Bellinger, TRMC, CMC
City Secretary

